I Claim:

1. A configuration, comprising:

a program-controlled unit including an instruction execution pipeline having a plurality of pipeline stages;

said program-controlled unit configured for executing instructions instructing said program-controlled unit to stop an individual one of said plurality of pipeline stages, more than one of said plurality of pipeline stages, or all of said plurality of pipeline stages; and

the instructions stipulating which particular one of said plurality of pipeline stages or which particular ones of said plurality of pipeline stages should be stopped.

2. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said program-controlled unit is configured for specifying a length of time for which a respective one of said plurality of pipeline stages is to be stopped.

3. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein the instructions, which instruct stopping, or other instructions can stipulate a length of time for which a respective one of said plurality of pipeline stages is to be stopped.

4. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said program-controlled unit is configured for beginning to stop a respective one of said plurality of pipeline stages at a particular time after executing an instruction that instructs stopping.

5. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said program-controlled unit is configured for beginning to stop a respective one of said plurality of pipeline stages after an instruction that instructs stopping has passed through said instruction execution pipeline.

6. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said program-controlled unit is configured for setting a time at which a respective one of said plurality of pipeline stages will begin to be stopped.

7. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein the instructions, which instruct stopping, or other instructions can stipulate a time for beginning to stop a respective one of said plurality of pipeline stages.

8. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said program-controlled unit is configured for blocking execution of the instructions, which instruct stopping.

9. The configuration according to claim 8, wherein said program-controlled unit is configured for treating the instructions, which instruct stopping, as unknown instructions when execution of the instructions, which instruct stopping, is not enabled.